

April 14, 1975

This is not a great figure. This is a very moderate figure. It is a figure in which it would put a few groceries on the table to help that person that is disabled. I hope very definitely that you defeat Senator Richard Maresh and Senator Herbert Duis amendments on this bill. This bill was good. This bill was strong. This bill should pass and it should go on its way so that Nebraska workers who are disabled are able to share in the benefits from this \$110.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just one remark, if I might, I think there are lobbyists on both sides of this bill. I just saw one out in the entryway just a moment ago but let's consider it that way. I don't like to have it accused on one side. I think we have got them on both sides. This is perfectly fine with me. I think it is as it should be but I just offer my amendment and I oppose the amendment of Senator Maresh's because I feel as though the amendment that I have proposed will carry the bill across the Board and the workers will receive some increase.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would rise to support...I originally intended to support Senator Duis' amendment but I would support Senator Maresh's amendment, either one of those two. It is a reasonable compromise. I don't think that we can justifiably say that the Cavanaugh amendment is a compromise. That was a victory for Senator Cavanaugh and a very substantial one. I would like to suggest that, perhaps, as Senator Mahoney says, you can only put groceries on the table with \$110. It was discussed the other day and I think we need to recognize that the individual worker has some responsibility also. The employer has a responsibility and we are trying to meet that but the worker has a responsibility also, I believe, to attempt to save something and to provide for that time when he is injured. Now, we recognize that this is injury on the job and, therefore, we have to make some provisions. We are trying to do that. We talked in terms of percentage increases. It is not just the large corporations who are opposing this bill. As Senator Duis has pointed out, there has been lobbying on both sides and that is fine. We agree it has to occur and we depend upon them but let's not try to say that it is all onesided, that there is just a few major corporations who oppose this bill. There are many small corporations. There are many fine employees who deserve an increase, that need an increase. That there are many fine small employers who are justifiably involved in trying to keep the doors open and keep the people employed. It is just as simple as that and I would hope that we would not try to extend the provisions so far that we defeat the original intent of the bill. I think, as I have said, \$4 one way or the other is not going to make that much difference, but if we go the \$14, it is a considerable sum and I would respectfully hope that you consider Senator Maresh's amendment. I don't think, frankly, Senator Duis' amendment is going to prevail. I would like to think it could but it probably won't. I think Senator Maresh, as Chairman of the Committee, has heard considerable testimony. I think that